

Water and Climate Update

February 1, 2018

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

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Southern Idaho snowpack remains below normal



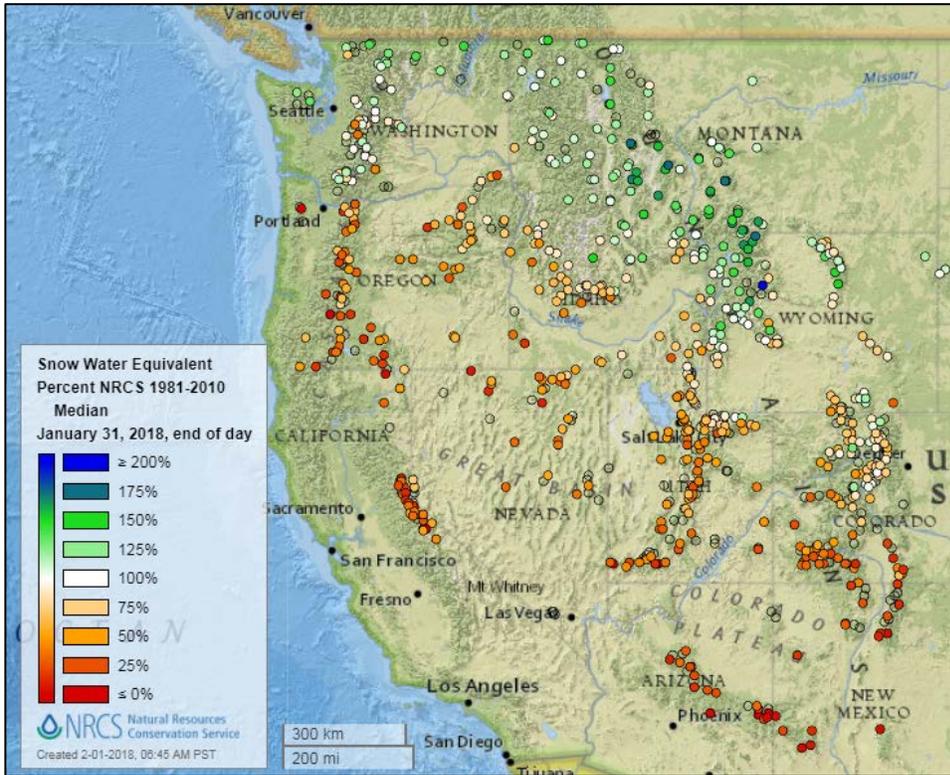
NRCS hydrologist Ron Abramovich (left) and David Hoekema of the Idaho Department of Water Resources completed the February 1 snow survey at Mores Creek Summit SNOTEL site on January 31. The measured snowpack at the site is 60% of average. Although the snowpack across southern Idaho is below average, Abramovich remains optimistic for adequate water supplies this year because reservoir storage in Idaho is above normal due to carryover from the well above average snowpack from last year. Photo courtesy: Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

Related:

- [Snowpack below normal levels](#) – Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
- [Mores Creek Summit snow pack is promising](#) – KIVI, Idaho
- [No worries over latest snow survey](#) – KTVB7, Idaho

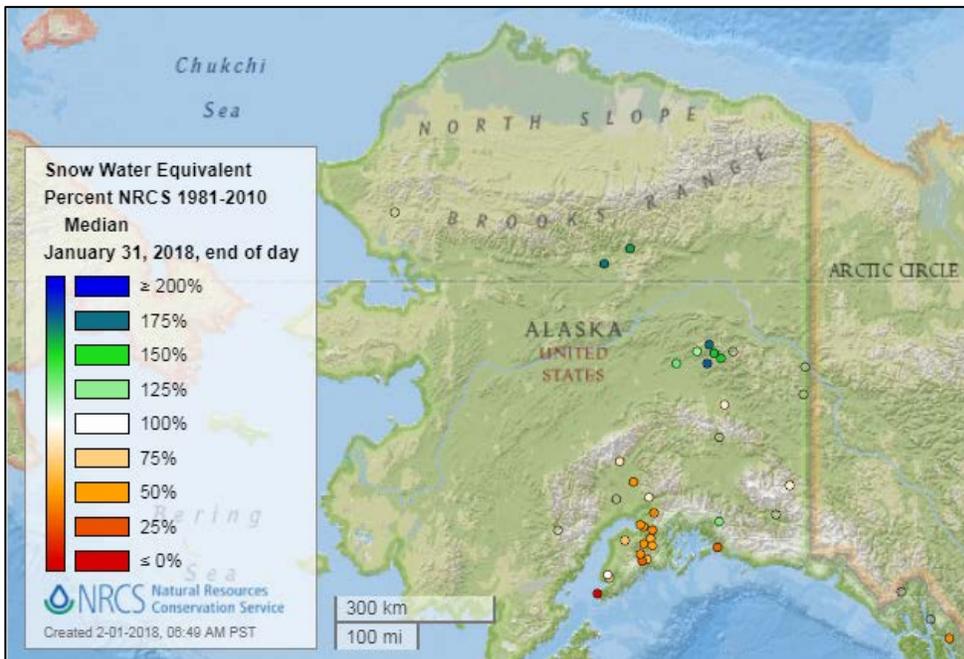
Snow

Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[Snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

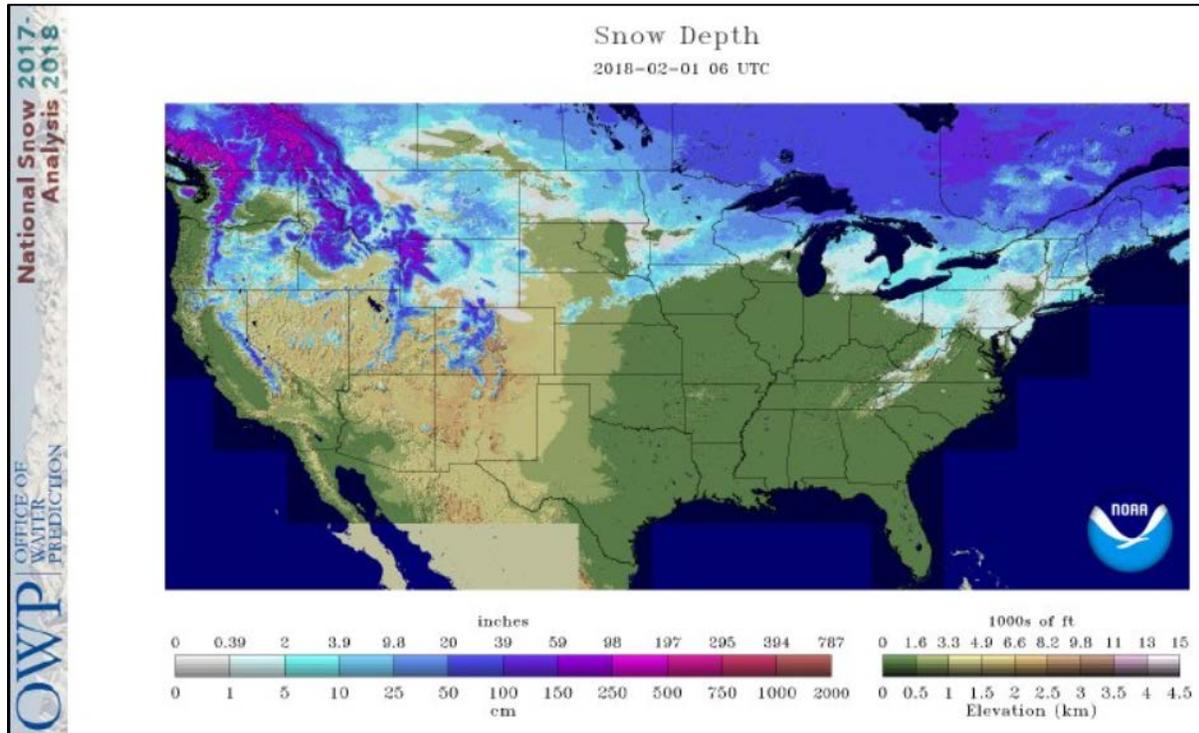
See also:
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

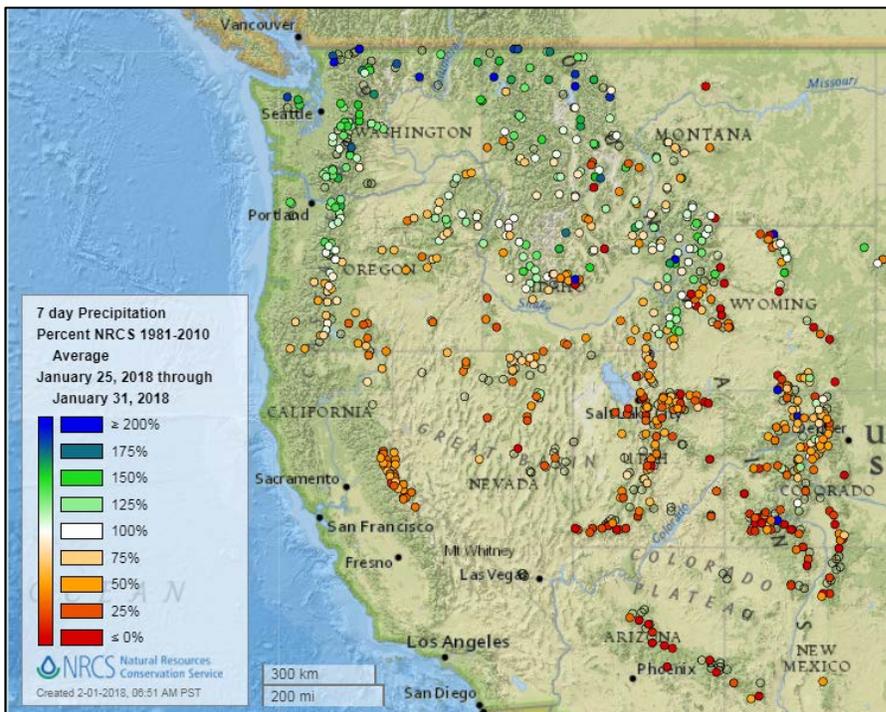
See also:
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network



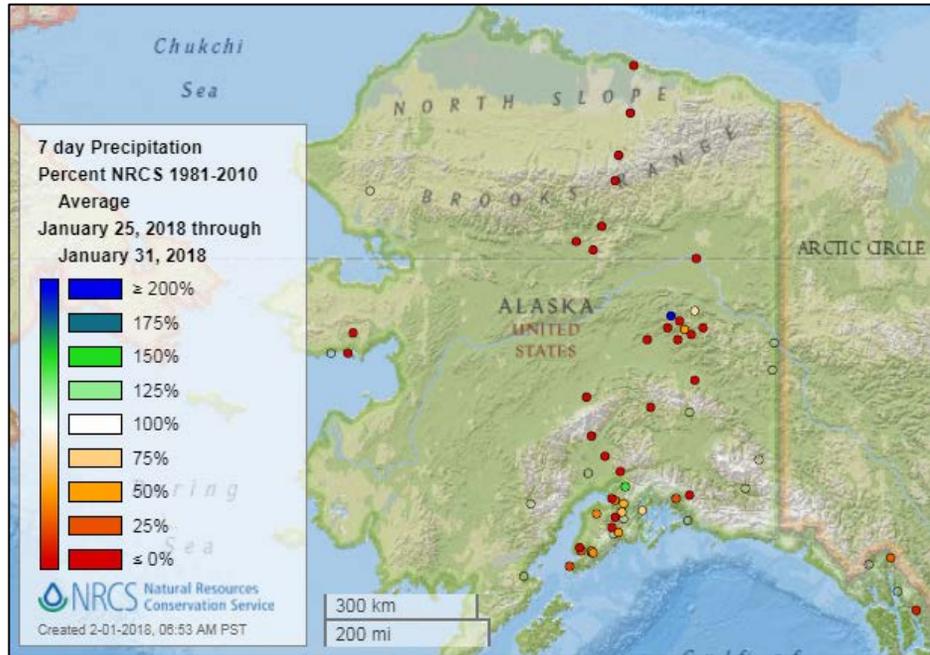
[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

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[Alaska 7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



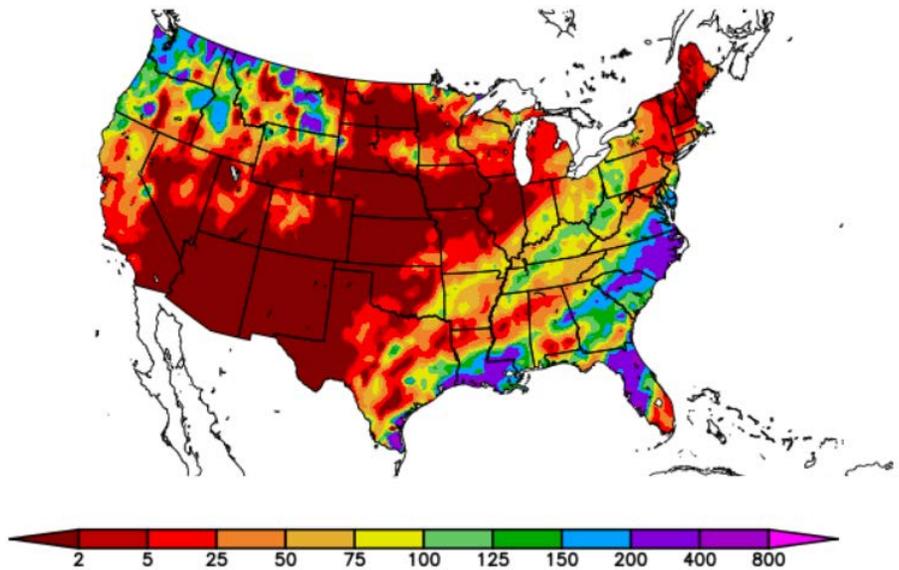
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 1/25/2018 – 1/31/2018

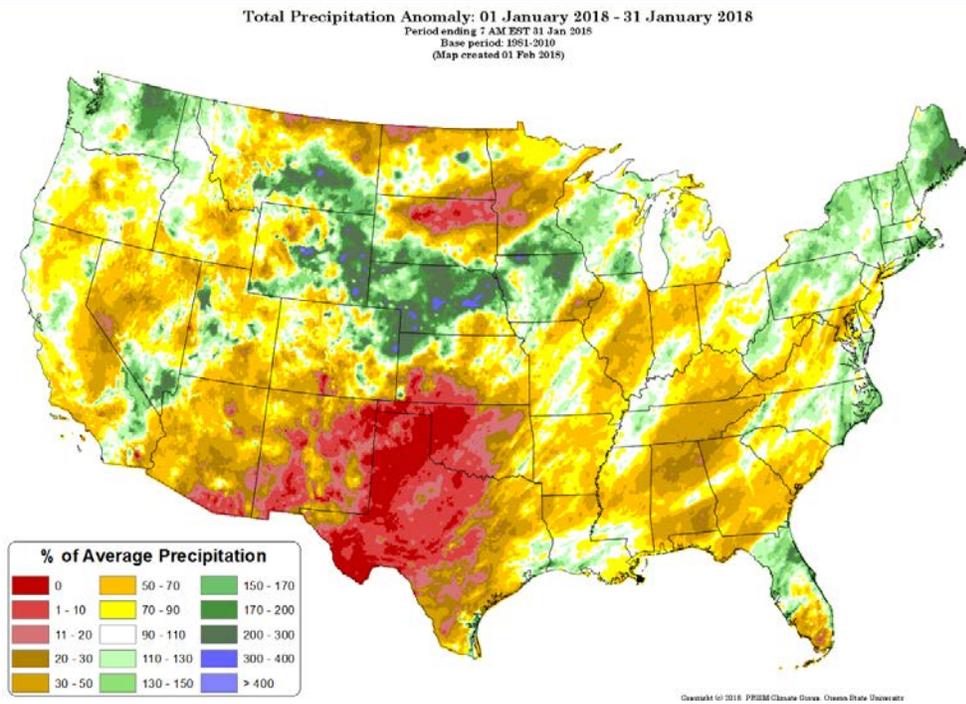


Generated 2/1/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

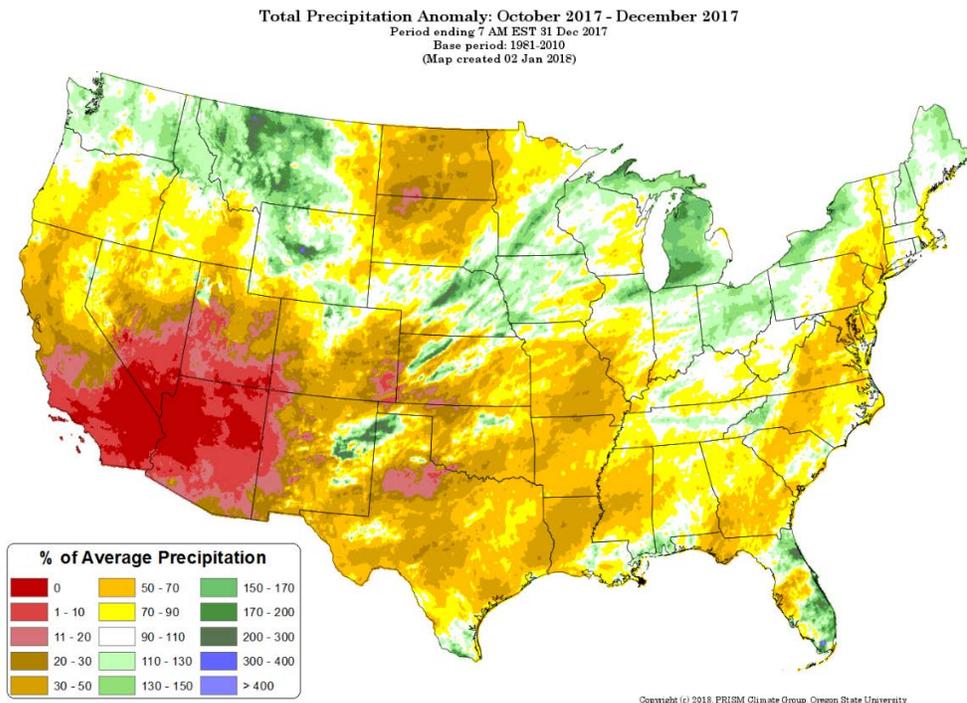


[Previous month national total precipitation percent of average map](#)

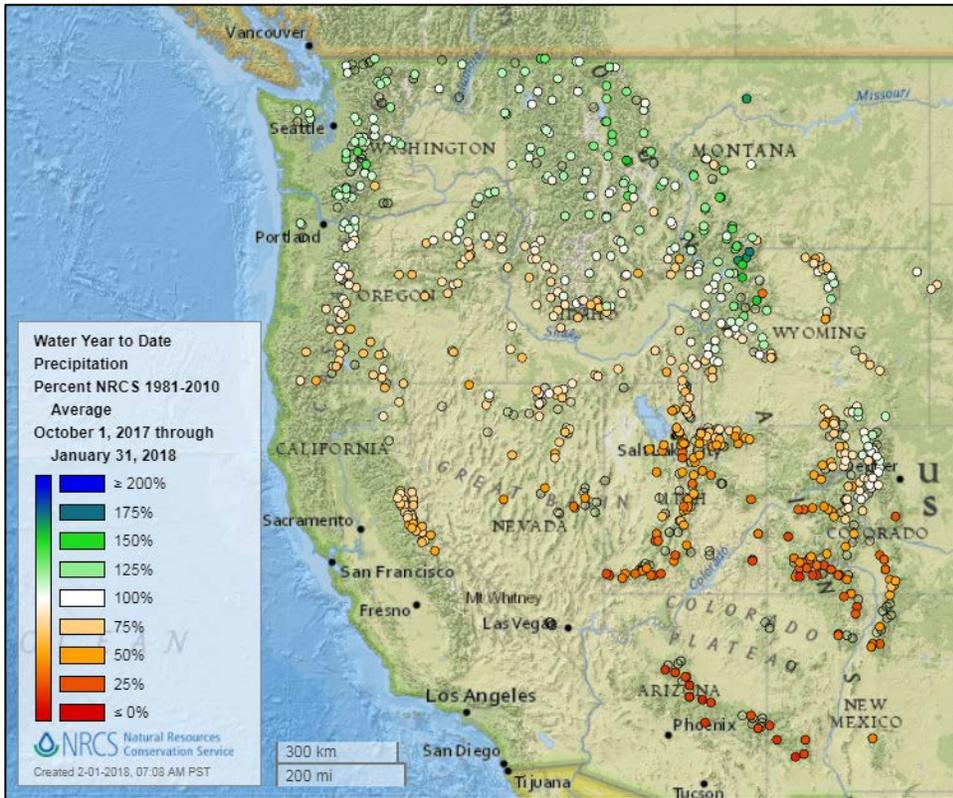
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[October through December 2017 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

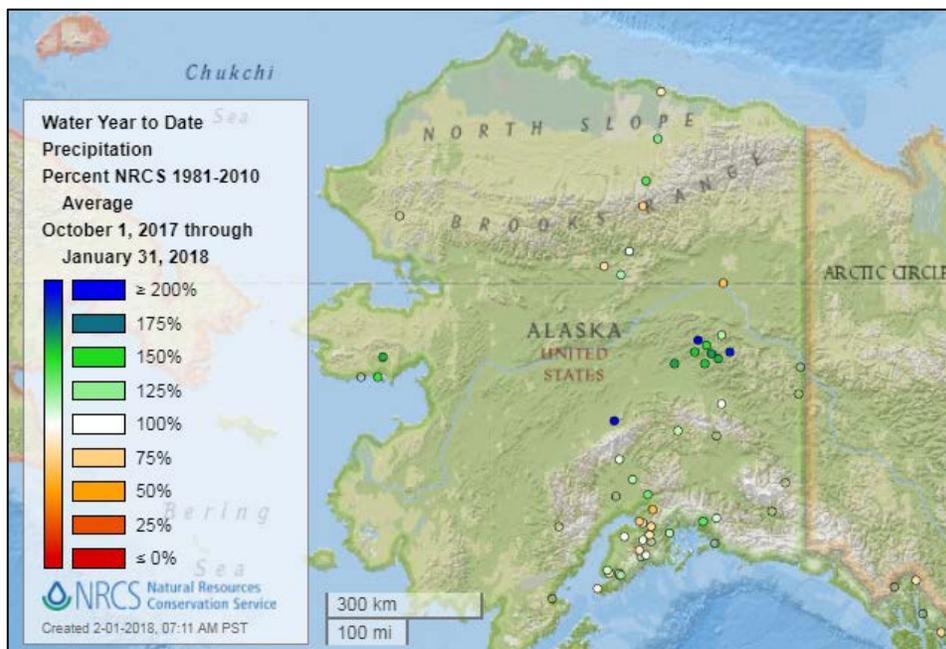


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\)](#)



[Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

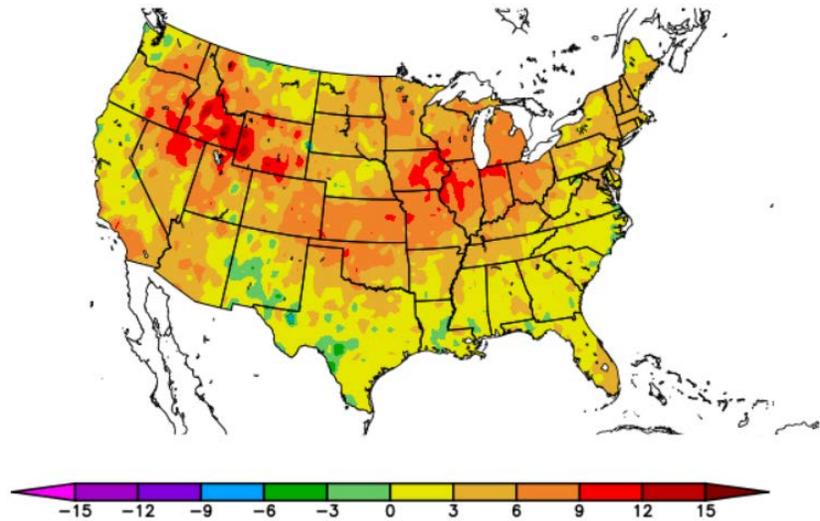
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/25/2018 – 1/31/2018



Generated 2/1/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

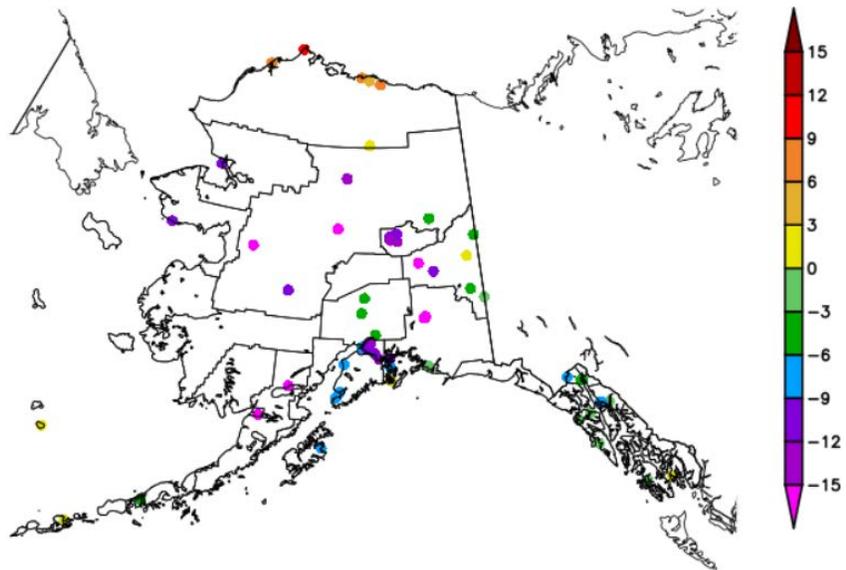
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/25/2018 – 1/31/2018



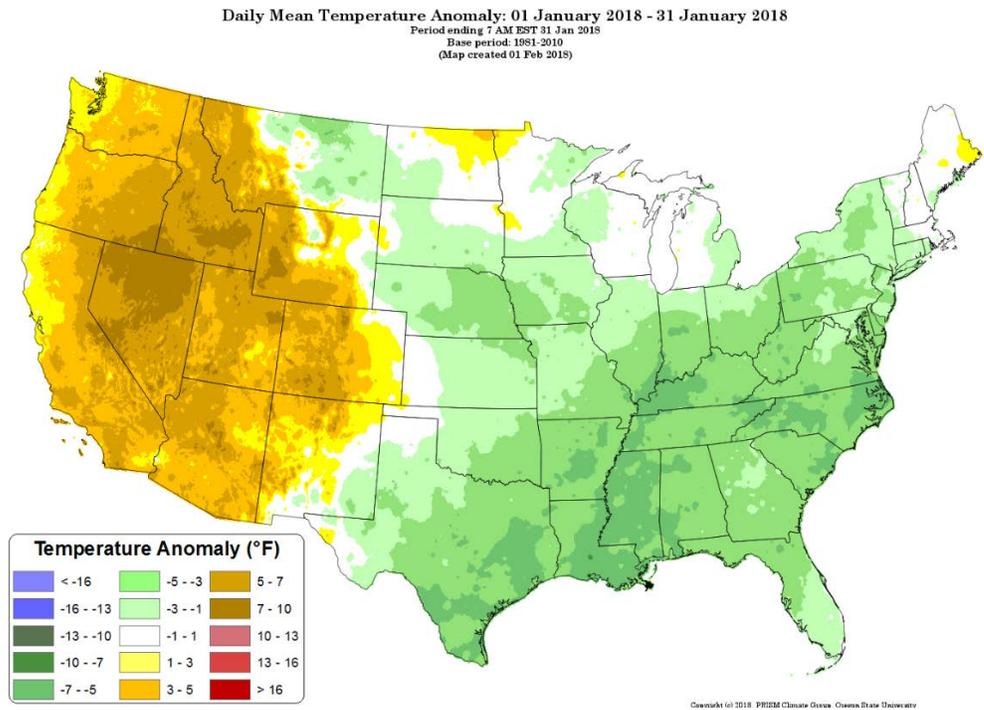
Generated 2/1/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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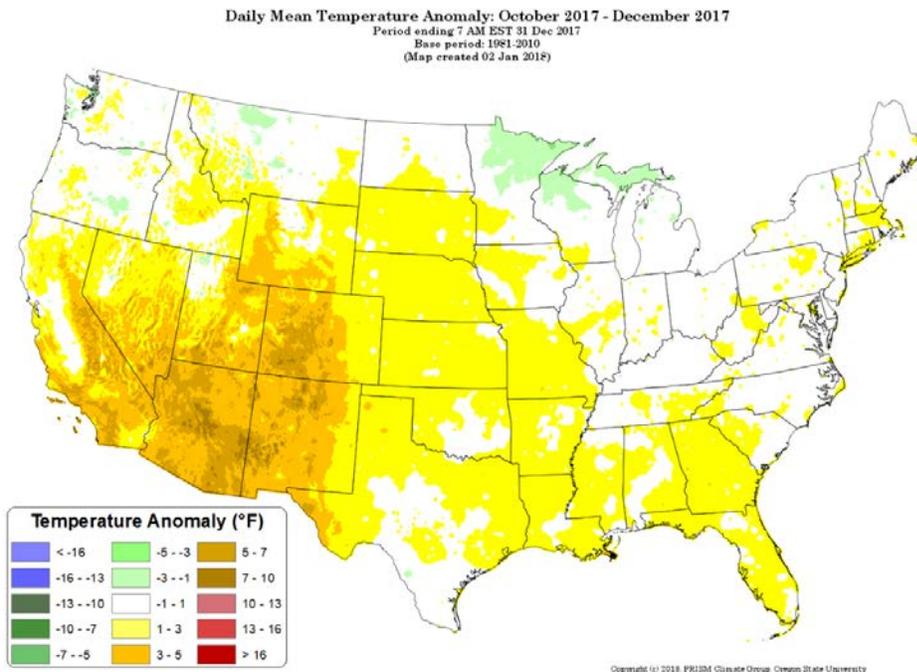
Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks Source: PRISM

[Previous month national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks Source: PRISM

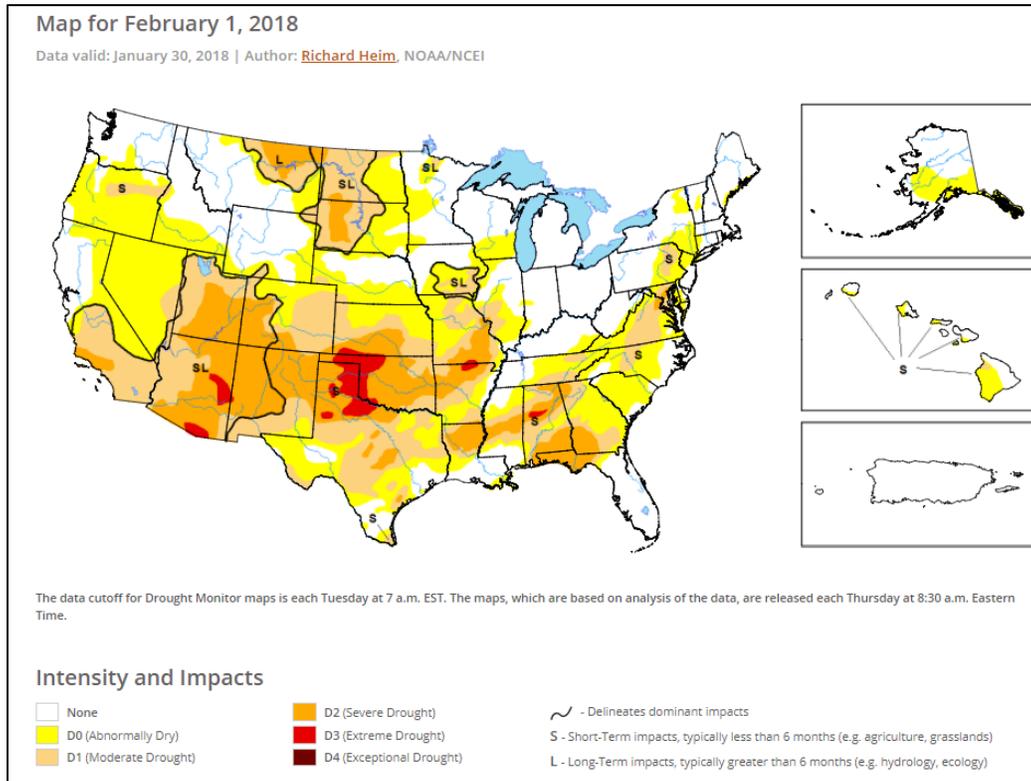
[October through December 2017 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) Select map below.

[U.S. Drought Portal](#) Comprehensive drought resource.



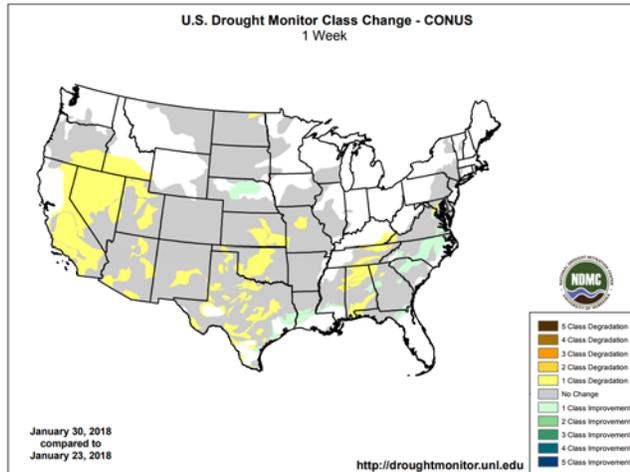
Current [National Drought Summary](#), February 1, 2018

Author: Richard Heim, NOAA/NCEI

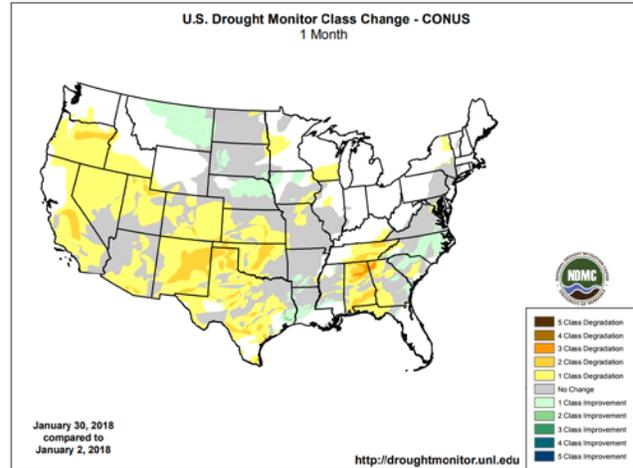
“A weak ridge in the upper atmosphere tried to assert itself over the western contiguous U.S. (CONUS) during this U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) week, but Pacific storm systems moved through it in a stronger westerly flow. The ridge weakened the Pacific systems, limiting their precipitation to coastal areas from northern California to Washington, where 4 to locally 10+ inches of precipitation fell; the upslope portions of the Sierra in northern California, where mostly 2 inches or less precipitation was observed; and across the Pacific Northwest to northern Rockies, where precipitation amounts ranged from 2-4 inches in the north to less than a tenth of an inch in the south. Most of the interior basin, 4 Corners States, and southern California received no precipitation. The Pacific lows and cold fronts were dried out as they crossed the Rockies, leaving the Great Plains and Upper Midwest with little to no precipitation. They picked up Gulf of Mexico moisture as they crossed the Mississippi River Valley, dropping 2 or more inches of rain in the wetter areas from southeastern Texas to Southern New England. Half an inch or more of precipitation occurred from the Lower Mississippi and Ohio Valleys to the East Coast. In spite of these areas receiving precipitation, the week was wetter than normal only along the northern California to Washington coast, the northern parts of the Pacific Northwest, and parts of the Gulf Coast, East Coast, and Mid-Appalachia. The rest of the CONUS was much drier than normal. Most of the CONUS was warmer than normal, with temperature departures as much as 10 degrees above normal in the Pacific Northwest and Midwest. The dryness this week was a continuation of severely dry conditions which have persisted for the last 3 to 4 months across much of the Southwest to southern Plains. Contraction of drought and abnormal dryness occurred in parts of the South to Mid-Atlantic where the heaviest rains fell, but drought expansion was the rule across the rest of the CONUS.”

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

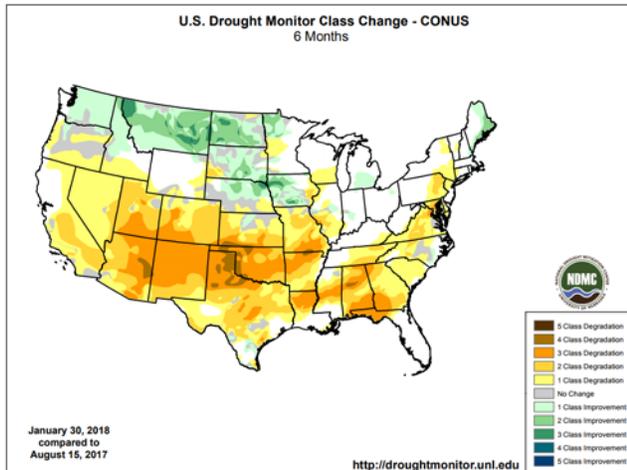
1 Week



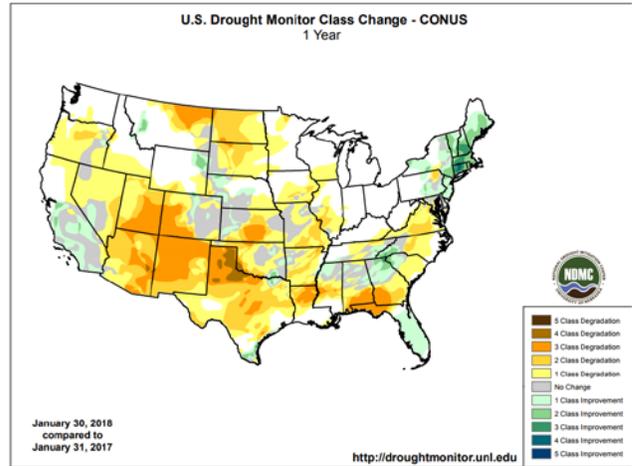
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year

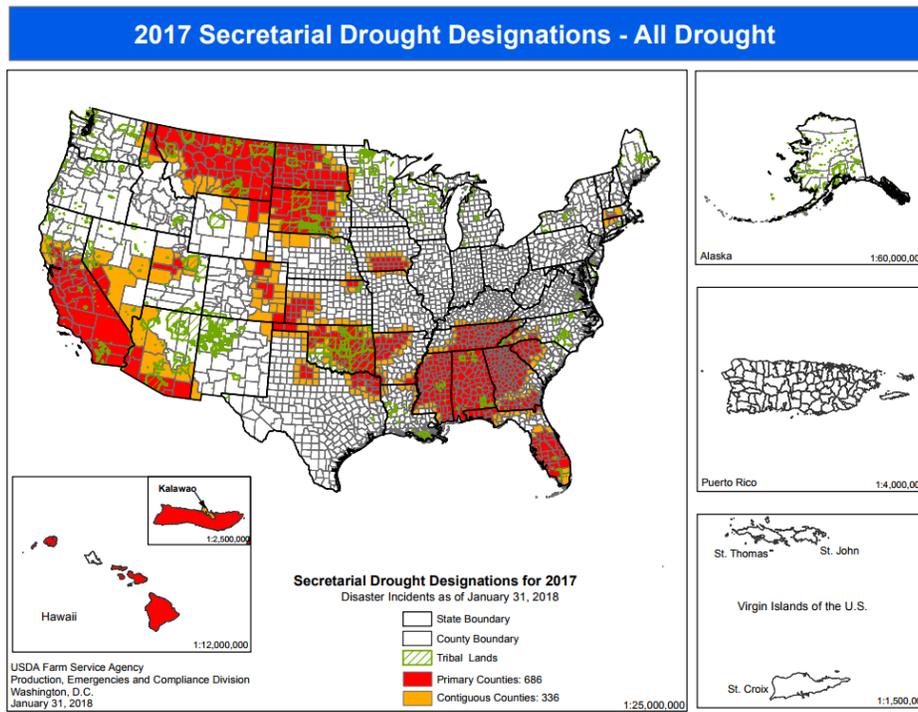


Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months

Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

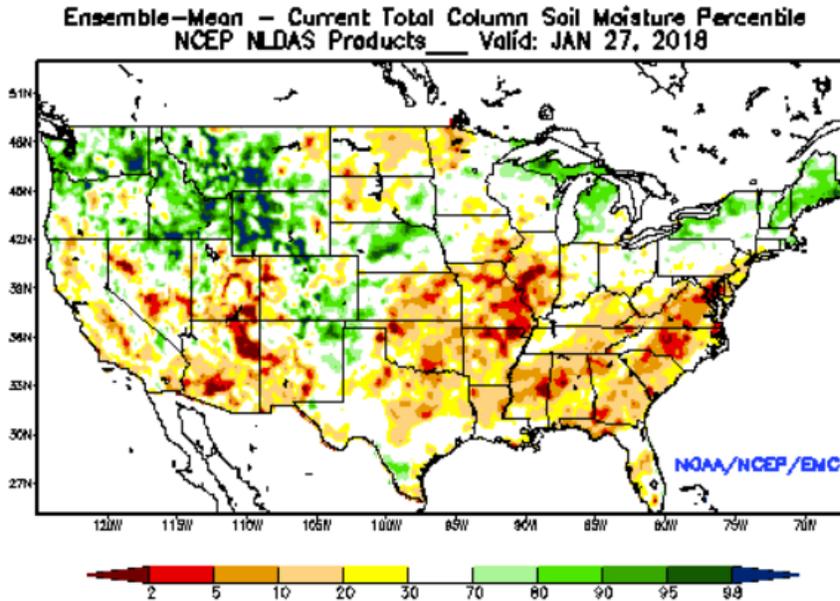
USDA 2017 Secretarial Drought Designations



Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

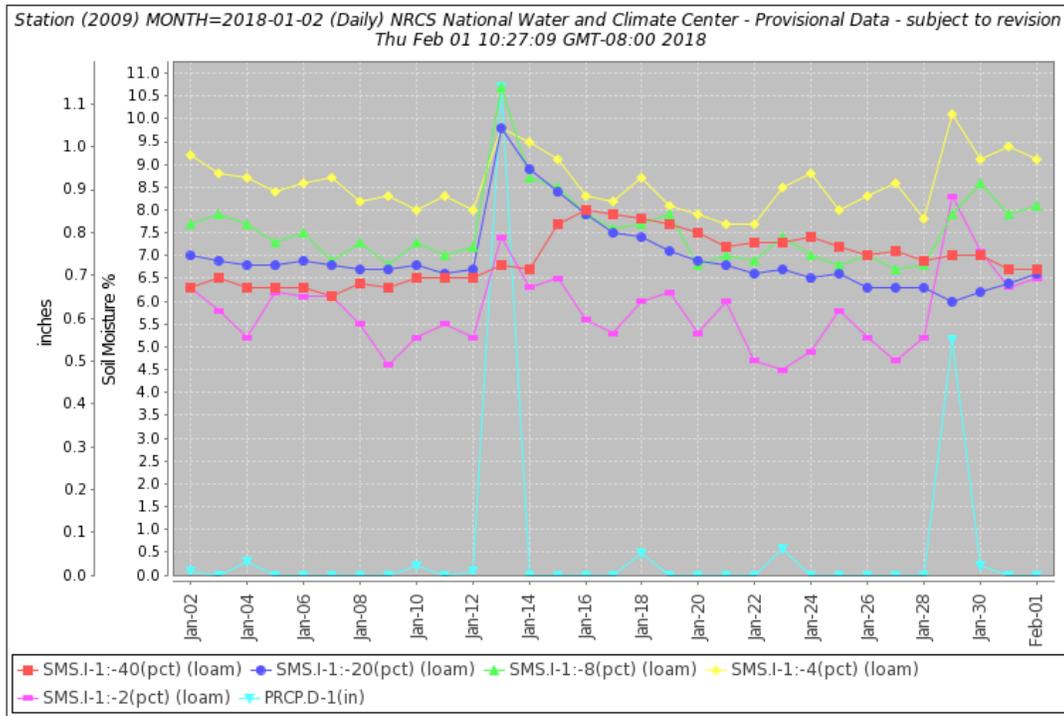
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of January 27, 2018.

Soil Moisture Data

Source: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](#)



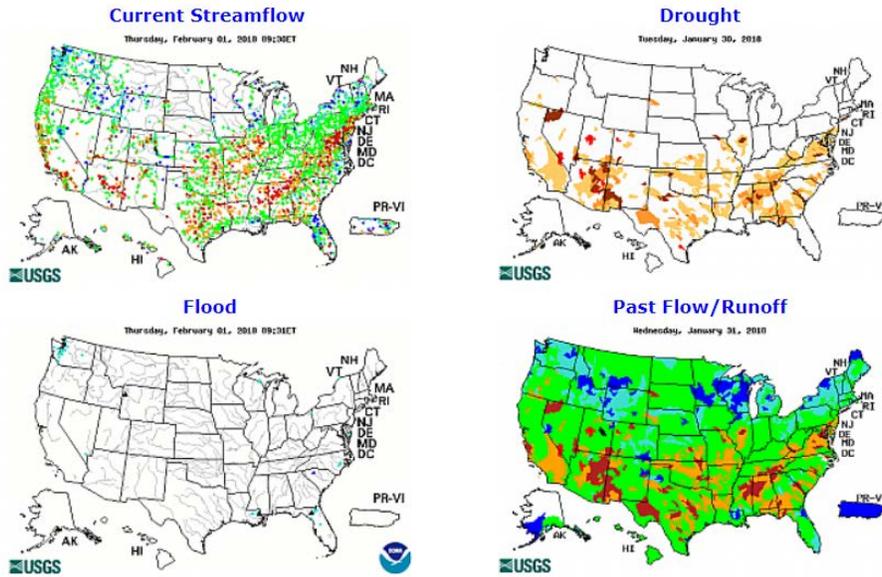
The chart shows precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Wakulla #1 SCAN station 2009](#), in northwest Florida. The past 30 days show 2 days of substantial precipitation causing the soil moisture to increase at the 2-, 4-, 8-, and 20-inch sensor depths.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow

Source: USGS

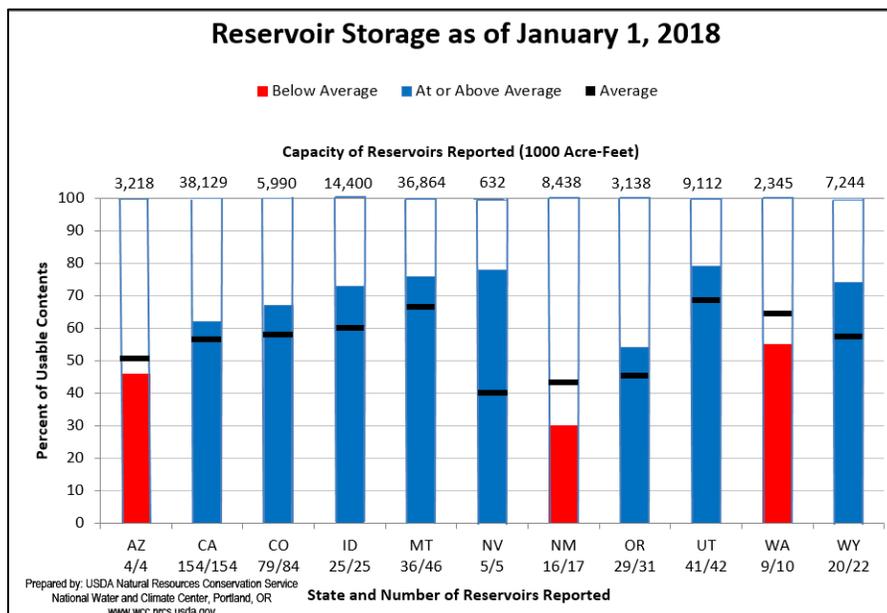


[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



January 1 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

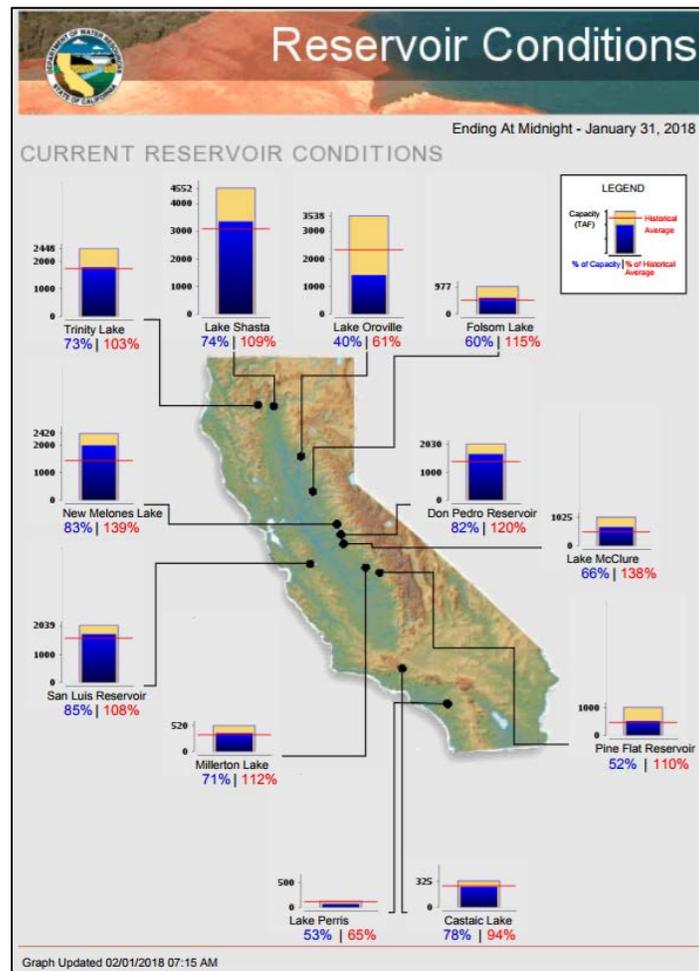
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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Hydromet Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- [Upper Colorado](#)
- [Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)
- [Sevier River Water, Utah](#)
- [Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

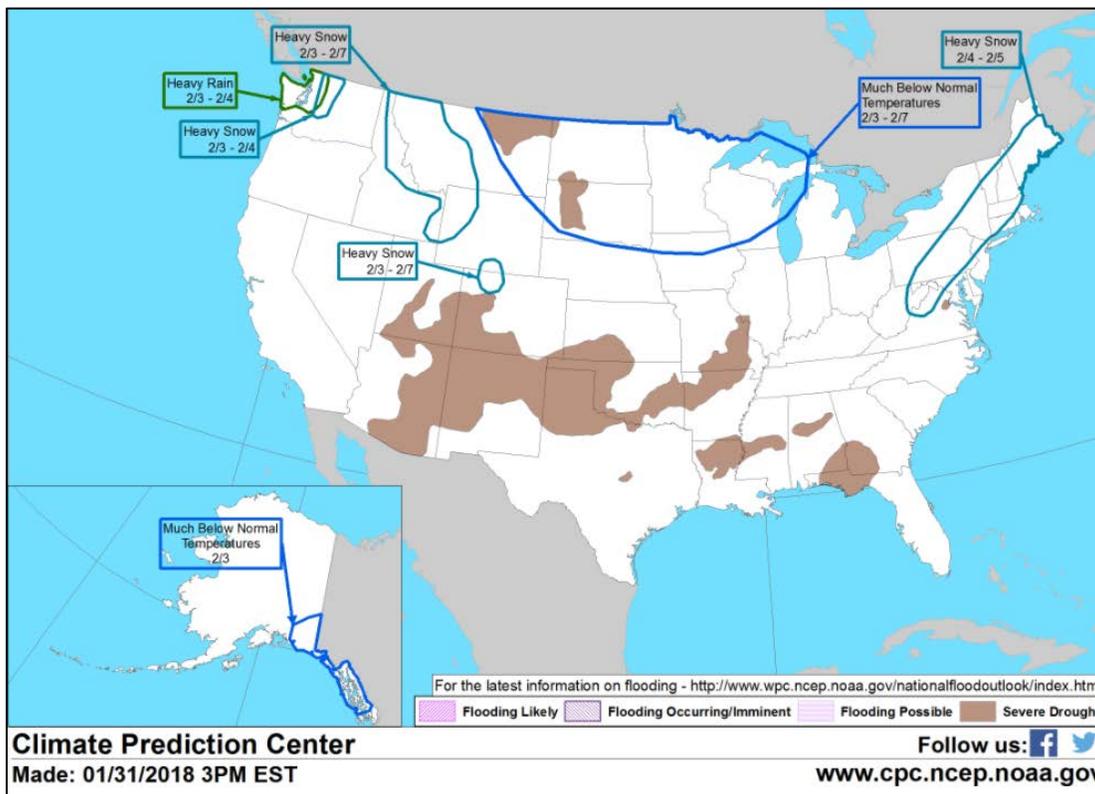
Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

[National Outlook, Thursday, February 1](#): “A pair of fast-moving cold fronts will bring a return of very cold weather to the northern Plains, Midwest, and Northeast. However, the cold outbreaks will not be quite as harsh as those observed in early January, as sub-zero temperatures should be mostly confined to the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Precipitation (rain and snow) will precede and accompany the cold fronts, primarily across the South, East, and lower Midwest, with 5- day totals topping an inch in some locations. In contrast, dry weather will persist into next week from California to the southern Plains. Farther north, however, periods of rain or snow will continue from the Pacific Northwest to the northern High Plains. Despite the Northwestern precipitation, above-normal temperatures will continue to limit snow accumulations. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for February 6 – 10 calls for the likelihood of below normal temperatures in the Midwest and environs, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail in the West and the lower Southeast. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation across the central and southern Plains and the West should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather along and northeast of a line from Montana to Georgia.”

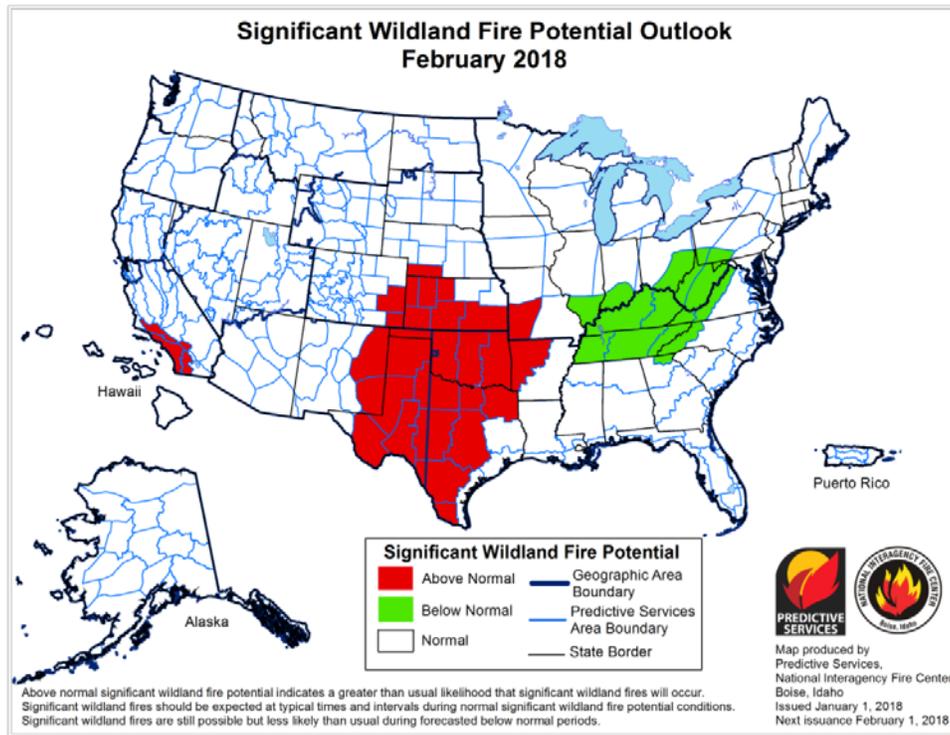
Weather Hazard Outlook [February 3 - 7, 2018](#)

Source: Climate Prediction Center



Significant Wildland [Fire Potential Outlook](#)

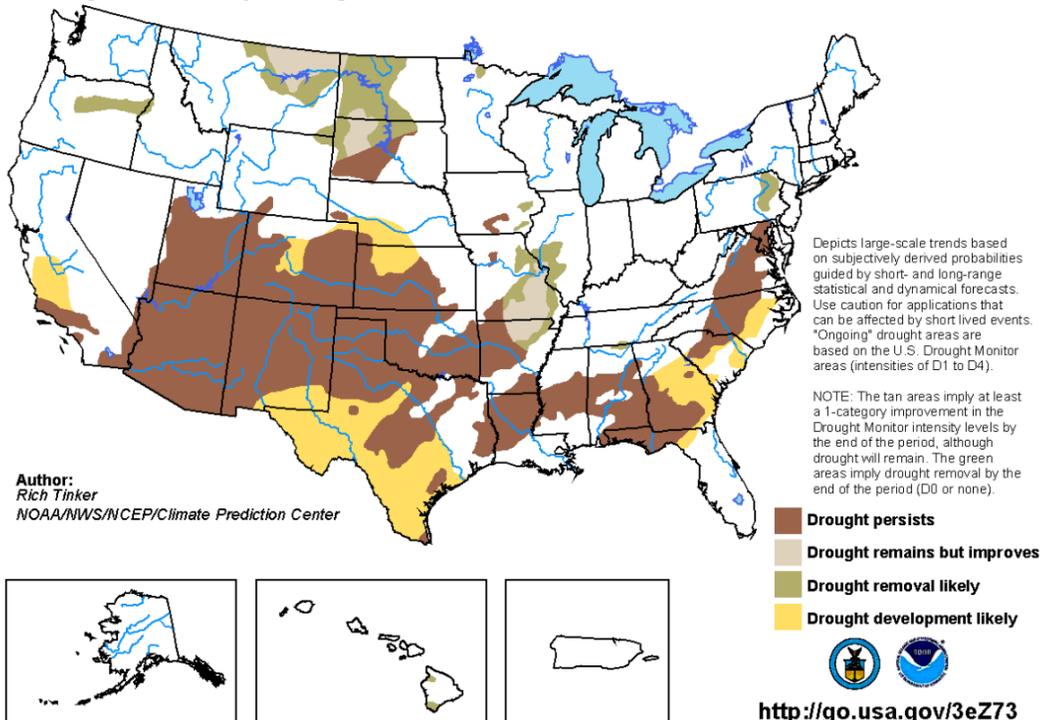
Source: National Interagency Fire Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [January 18 – April 30, 2018](#) Source: National Weather Service

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for January 18 - April 30, 2018
Released January 18, 2018

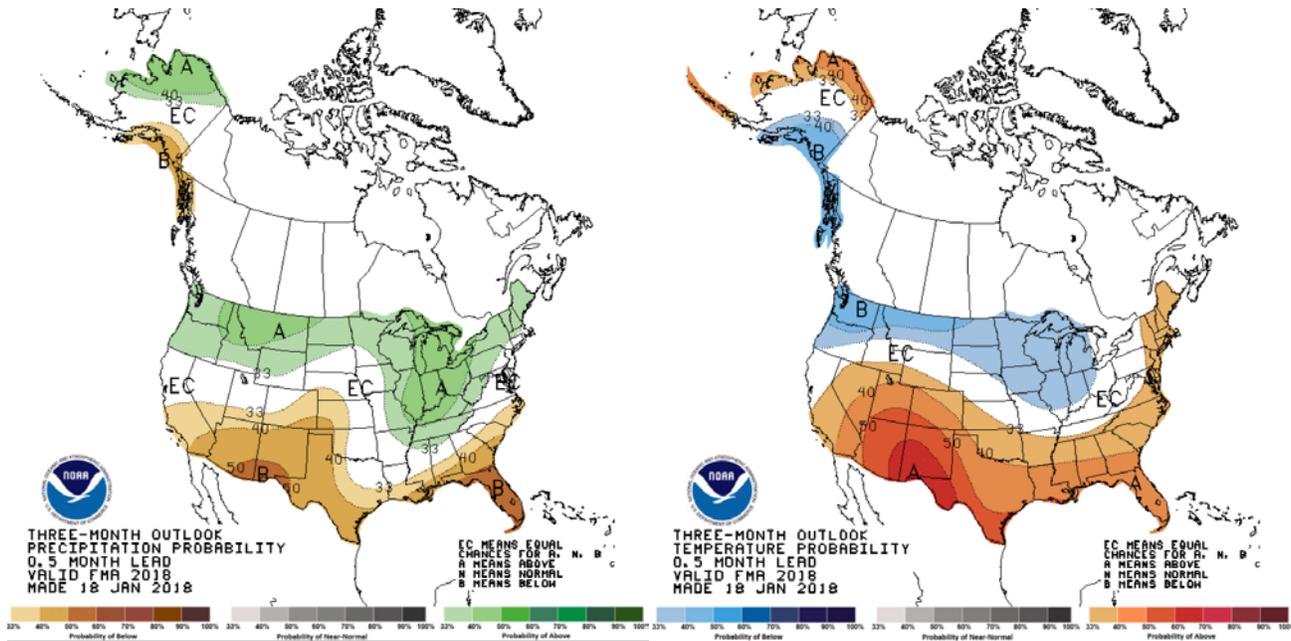


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[Feb-Mar-Apr \(FMA\) 2018 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).